

consent of the governed. No government can be invested with higher dignity and greater worth than one based upon the principle of consent. The people of the United States and the people of Puerto Rico are entering into a new relationship that will serve as an inspiration to all who love freedom and hate tyranny. We are giving new substance to man's hope for a world with liberty and equality under law. Those who truly love freedom know that the right relationship between a government and its people is based on mutual consent and esteem. The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is a proud document that embodies the best of our democratic heritage. I recommend its early approval by the Congress."

Some fifty years have passed since Congress ratified the Constitution of Puerto Rico. I am very proud to represent my people and to recognize and celebrate this historic event through this resolution today. It is an honor to work with my colleagues in Congress and to celebrate with all Americans the Commonwealth Constitution and our ongoing commitment to democracy, liberty, progress and self-determination.

I thank my colleagues for their support of this Resolution.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking Democrat on the Resources Committee I want to begin by thanking JIM HANSEN for his work in getting this important resolution celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico before the House of Representatives.

While it is true that Chairman HANSEN and I often have a difference of opinion when it comes to issues involving Puerto Rico, on the matter before us today we stand united.

I also want to commend the gentleman from Puerto Rico, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA, for his diligence in bringing this measure to our attention, and working to have it considered by the House of Representatives in a timely fashion.

During my tenure in Congress, I've come to appreciate the passionate deliberations over Puerto Rico's future political status. Anyone who is familiar with this history will recognize how studious one must be in crafting legislation, or otherwise, that makes mention of Puerto Rico's political status. In this regard, I offer my deep appreciation to Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA for working collaboratively with both Chairman HANSEN and myself to compose a nonpartisan and status-neutral resolution recognizing this milestone for Puerto Rico.

It is times such as this occasion that we are given good cause to step back and appreciate all that the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States has meant to each other over the years. The U.S. has benefitted from Puerto Rican achievements in business, the arts, government, and athletics. More importantly, the U.S. has been enriched by Puerto Rican history, culture, and language. I would also emphasize the in time of war the people of Puerto Rico have also shed their blood in defense of the United States of America.

For her part, Puerto Rico has capitalized on the access to economic opportunities provided to her from the U.S. relationship. The result of this, being a prosperous economy and society.

The relationship will be perfected. The determination of the people of Puerto Rico will make it so. I have a special fondness for the people of Puerto Rico. I have found them to be a hard working and diligent people with deep passions. Today, I congratulate the peo-

ple of Puerto Rico on this anniversary and encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 395, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4807, H. Con. Res. 408, and H. Con. Res. 395, the legislation just debated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of House proceedings. Except for concluding business which follows, today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5093, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during the Special Order of Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-577) on the resolution (H. Res. 483) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5093) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of attending a memorial service.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. MASCARA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and July 16 on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFazio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHOWS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. THURMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PORTMAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and July 16, 17, and 18.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois to include extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$9,630.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on June 12, 2002 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.